

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 3 to 8, 10, 13, 15 to 21, 23 and 24 were amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the twist angle of the liquid-crystal layer (ϕ) is in the range from -25° to $+25^\circ$.
4. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer is or can be switched from its initial value to essentially 0 nm.
5. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is a transmissive or transflective liquid-crystal switching element.
6. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer is from $0.20\mu\text{m}$ to $0.37\mu\text{m}$.
7. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer is from $0.07\mu\text{m}$ to $0.17\mu\text{m}$.
8. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that it contains at least one birefringent layer.
10. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 8, characterized in that the optical retardation of the birefringent layer or of the birefringent layers $[(d \cdot \Delta n)_{BL}]$ corresponds either to essentially half or essentially twice the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer $[(d \cdot \Delta n)_{LC}]$.
13. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the switching element contains no birefringent layer.

15. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer in the fully switched state is from 0 nm to 80 nm, preferably from 0 nm to 40 nm.
 16. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that the liquid-crystal layer has positive dielectric anisotropy.
 17. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that it can be operated in normally white mode.
 18. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that it is a reflective liquid-crystal switching element.
 19. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that it is a transmissive liquid-crystal switching element.
 20. (Amended) Liquid-crystal switching element according to Claim 13, characterized in that the liquid-crystal layer has negative dielectric anisotropy.
 21. (Amended) Electro-optical liquid-crystal device, characterized in that it contains a liquid-crystal switching element or a plurality of liquid-crystal switching elements according to Claim 1.
 23. (Amended) Electro-optical liquid-crystal display device according to Claim 21, characterized in that the liquid-crystal switching elements are addressed by means of a matrix of active electrical switching elements.

24. (Amended) Use of an electro-optical liquid-crystal switching element or a plurality of electro-optical liquid-crystal switching elements according to Claim 1 in a liquid-crystal display device.

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